Issue 121 December 2013

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

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Front Cover *Pineapple Knot arrangement by Michel Since of France.*

Catalog Information
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ADVERTISING RATES (Pounds Sterling)

	Members	Non-members
Full page	50	70
Half Page	25	35
Quarter Page	15	20
Full (colour)	140	170

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES (Pounds Sterling)
Juniors - under 18 Free
Adullts 1-year 23 Adults 5-year 100
Families 1-year 27 Families 5-year 115
Group 10 Corporate By arrangement
The International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT) is a registered charity No. 802153

PRINTED BY GIPPING PRESS Ltd
Needham Market
Tel: 01449 721599
Fax: 01499 721372
ISSN 0959-2881

In Memoriam
Pierre Losay

Bonjour à tous,

J'ai une bien triste nouvelle à vous annoncer. Pierre LOSAY était membre de l'IGKT France et habitait à Granville. Parti en croisière trois mois par an, il était aussi un passionné de pêche et j'ai eu le plaisir de partager avec lui quelques journées de pêche au lancer ou à pied dans les Iles Chausey.

Atteint d'un cancer du poumon il y a un an et demi, il semblait bien résister jusqu'au début du mois de novembre où la mal s'est développé d'une manière irréversible pour l'emporter le jeudi 21 novembre. Ces cendres ont été dispersées dans le chenal Beauchamps des Iles Chausey le jeudi 28 novembre, selon sa volonté.

J'envoie un courrier à son épouse, Martine, qui est bien sûr effondrée.

Bien tristement,
Jean-Pierre Durand

[Translated by Google Translate and slightly amended by your Editor]

Hello everyone,

I have a sad announcement to make. Peter Losay was a member of IGKT France who lived in Granville, France. He enjoyed cruising for three months a year, and he was also an avid fisherman. I had the pleasure of sharing a few days with him at cast fishing or out walking on Chausey, a small group of islets in Normandy.

He had been suffering from lung cancer for about a year and a half, and the treatment seemed to resist growth until early November when the illness had developed irreversibly to win on Thursday, November 21. His ashes were scattered in the channel of Beauchamps Chausey on Thursday, Nov. 28, according to his will.

I sent a letter to his wife, Martine who is certainly devastated.

Sadly,
Jean-Pierre Durand

Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see the article by Geoffrey Budworth in Knotting Matters 120. My delight was caused by my having submitted a related but different article. My interest in these knots (that I have called Twilled Turksheads) was aroused by a basketmaker, Stella Harding. Now Stella produces bracelets by augmenting a 3 strand 4 bight turkshead, 2 strands at a time. This augmentation adds 3 bights at each stage while the complexity of the twill increases by one at each stage, so we get the sequence:

3 strands	4 bights	Over one, under one weave
5strands	7 bights	Over two, under two weave
7 strands	10 bights	Over three, under three weave
9strands	13 bights	Over four, under four weave
11 strands	16 bights	Over five, under five weave

Stella seems to see no reason why this sequence should ever end, except if you run out of material to go on weaving, so it seems likely that an infinite sequence of these turksheads exists from this one starting point.

Now Geoffrey Budworth finds three sequences starting from different turksheads = namely 3L 5B, 3L 8B, and 3L 11B. For some reason Geoffrey seems to stop at sequences of length 3 and calls these 'Turkshead triplets'. I can see no reason for stopping these sequences and in fact, with some difficulty, I have extended the first of these to 9L 14B with an O4, U4 weave. Perhaps all of these 'triplets' can be extended indefinitely to provide infinite sequences of twilled turksheads. In fact it is possible that many more of these twilled turksheads exist than was ever guessed.

Turning to Geoffrey Budworth's three rules governing these twilled turksheads, Geoffrey appeals to the law of the Common Divisor in Rule 2. This Rule 2 follows immediately from the Law of the Common Divisor. The proof of this law makes no mention of the type of weave involved in the turkshead. In fact, the proof of the law merely shows that even the thread pattern is impossible if a common divisor exists. A more complicated weave will never make a turkshead possible if the law says it cannot be achieved with one cord. Actually a plain O1 U1 weave can be imposed on any thread pattern without contradiction. This is not necessarily true of more elaborate twills like O2 U2.

Demanding a twill will sometimes make a turkshead impossible, it never improves the situation.

By the way, if anyone would like to tie a 'spanish ring knot', then putting these words into 'youtube' search box, will find a splendid video demonstration of this knot.

Richard Ahrens
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01923 248159

Hi, I'm a junior member and I thought I'd pass along this link which may show signs of the first recorded Bow-line knot used. This is in response to "Ed's comment" at the end of the "In Defence of the Bow-Line Knot" article (Issue 120). A bow-line type knot was supposedly discovered in the rigging of Pharaoh Khufu's solar ship. The ship dates back to 2500 BC!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khufu_ship

[*see page 24 for photograph (by John Bodsworth under creative commons) of rope from the Khufu ship - Ed*]

Your loyal member,
Steve Chamlee

In Defense of The Bowline Knot

Confusion arises from spelling and pronunciation as well as from usage. Hopefully to add clarity: (1) bow line - a mooring line at the head of a vessel. Pronounced like the sound dogs make "bow wow." (2) bow-line knot - a knot used to make an eye in the end of a line. Pronounced like the archery weapon "bow." (3). Bowline/bowline sheet /bowline bridle/bowline cringle - all parts of the course rigging used to stretch the course luff bar-taut for close hauled sailing. Pronounced as in archery.

The best written material related to all manner of square rig matters is John Harland's "Seamanship in the Age of Sail", *Naval Institute Press*, 1984, Annapolis, MD. Also see "The Visual Encyclopaedia of Nautical Terms Under Sail," *Crown Publishers Inc.* NY 1978. Also the glossary of ABOK. Knot enough?

David Damon

[***The "course" is the forward sail suspended from the lowest yard or spar on a square-rigged ship. The "course luff" is the leading edge of the course sail - either of the two vertical edges of the sail, depending on the tack on which the ship's sails are set. - Ed***]

Dear Lindsey,
Re: Owen Nuttall's article [KM #120], I note that there is no mention of the Beitass, the Bowline's first historical lead. Both the Bi &Triremes were both purely war ships, and didn't load cargo, and is it certain that the Bowline was called a bridle knot? Maybe some confusion exists, because in the 19th C. sailing ships they didn't even use the knot to attach the bowline to the bridle, a bullseye was used, as is shown in the illustration used. Maybe there is more to be said on the subject?

I would like to go to print to say how much I admire, and applaud, the beautiful Macrame work of Jorgen Friis-Christensen. I particularly love the "Chapeau" as not only brilliant work, but clever thinking too, and the "Mat" on the back cover is a masterpiece which will become a "Collectable" in the not too distant future Yrs. as ever Roger Carter

Now, There's An Idea!

by Colin Grundy

Across the harbour from the Schiffahrtsmuseum in Flensburg (the venue of the 2013 IGKT half-yearly meeting), is another less-well known museum, the Fischereimuseum. It is dedicated to the local fishing industry. Alas, when we arrived following the IGKT meeting, the museum was closed, but there were a few tempting knot-related morsels in the window.

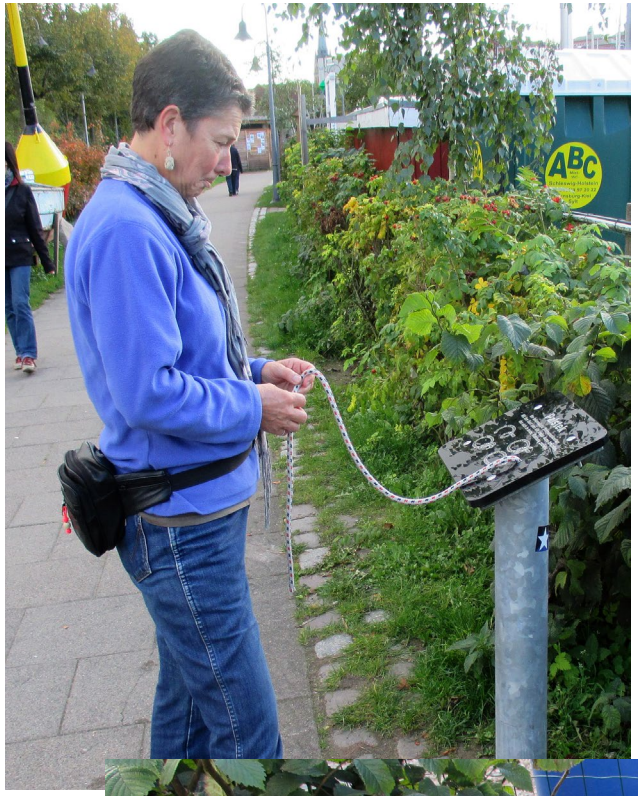
Nearby were a number of information notices on the top of metre-high posts. These did not give information on local tourist spots as you might imagine, but each had a diagram of how to tie a knot. Attached to the notice was a suitable length of rope to practice with. There is also an explanation of what each knot is used for.

What a splendid way to introduce the public to knot tying, especially children. Is this something individual IGKT branches could introduce in their area I wonder?

Captions

pic 1 IGKT member Jane Bamford tries her hand at the Palstek (Bowline)

pic 2 Eagle eyed knot-tyers will notice the diagram gives an outside bowline.



A Plea for Help

by Jimmy Williams, IGKTPAB, California, USA

I think we need help from the general membership. We need ideas to promote our Guild and to generate a greater interest in the educational benefits of knotting, as a part of the efforts we are making to preserve the lessons learned in the making and using one of man's earliest tools. The study of knots leads the young on a journey of knowledge. Granted, this is a journey in string, but the underlying lesson here is the ability to study and learn. Children learn to accomplish tasks by studying diagrams, by reading and following instructions and, using these abilities, they begin to reach and teach someone else. How can we help them?

Here is a description – just one example - of what I am talking about: The Pacific Americas Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers [***PAB***] has received several invitations from Boy Scout and Cub Scout leaders locally and in other parts of the USA to participate in their meetings. (We've been trying to become a part of the Scouting community for some time - about 16 years!) We pass this information on to our PAB members in e-mails, seeking participation. HOWEVER, now that we have an "in", we find it is becoming increasingly difficult to find members willing to spend an evening with the Scouts!

Our Branch has over 70 members, 30 of them in California. 12 of those are either located in Northern CA, or unable to drive anywhere. That leaves 18 members. 14 of them are questionable as to being willing or able to participate (some on active duty & others suffer some level of physical incapacity or have travel limitations). 4 have recently attended meetings fairly regularly. Of the last 4, only 1 has been available for the last 3 Scout meetings! Is this low percentage (1.4% - which is a low number of participation anywhere) an indication of what our general membership achieves? Does this mean our current membership is being supported by less than 20 members worldwide? I hope not! So where is the evidence – Knotting Matters is our vehicle for telling each other what we are doing – where are the tales of derring-do? There may be many of you who feel that this is a criticism that is unjust – write and tell us so and let us know what you have done – can we anticipate more than 20 replies? [***All replies will be published – Ed***].

Our question is . . . How do we get more folks interested in our Guild and Branch and in knotting as an activity from which to learn a needed skill? If you have suggestions, please send an e-mail treasurer@igktpab.org. In 2000, when I joined the IGKT and the PAB, there were a little over 1,000 members. Today, there are still only a little over 1,000 members – but not much over, especially when compared with China which boasts a membership of knot-tyers of over 17,000! That minimal growth [***in 13 years***] is a gain in membership of nearly zero! If we don't do something to increase our membership and membership participation, we might as well just argue with each other on the Forum, which we seem to do quite well, until the cows come home and knotting is truly a lost art.

Copied from the IGKT.NET home page [emphasis added] . . .

What Does The IGKT Do?

We are an educational non-profit making organization dedicated to furthering interest in practical, recreational and theoretical aspects of knotting. Our aim is to preserve traditional knotting techniques and promote the development of new techniques for new material and applications. We attend public events to advertise the Guild and its work, and conduct talks and demonstrations by arrangement with interested groups. We keep in touch with each other by correspondence, by holding regular meetings and exhibitions at both international and regional levels.

Extract of the Objectives of the IGKT
-Promote research into all aspects of knotting
-Act as a primary source of reference and consultation
-Publish a periodical […] about knot crafts and related subjects

-Form and maintain a library of books, papers, films, photographs and other materials associated with knots. […] with a view to making information available to Members of the Guild and the general public
-Form a collection of knots and knotting and work related crafts
-Promote and encourage knotting as an element in the education of children and young persons, and as a therapy for those who may benefit from such remedial activity
-Further promote the interest in knotting and associated activities, through its members, to the general public

It is my contention that we are missing the goals by a wide margin. (Especially the underlined parts.) We participate in large general meetings, for a short time of those meetings even chatting with the public but, apart from passing information to them, telling them there are thousands of knots, what do we teach at that time or do we just kid ourselves? What research do we conduct and where do we seek funding for it? How do we "…promote and encourage knotting as an element in the education of children… "? Do you have any ideas that are useful for a membership that is widespread? Should we set ourselves a goal of doubling or tripling our (aging) population of members in five years? Should we amend our Mission? Do we care that others find it hard to gain the knowledge we possess? Do we care that our members seem to ignore the Mission in favor of doing (seemingly) only what pleases them? Should we sit and play with string and cord to our hearts' content, perhaps even criticizing others in our Forum, or should we participate more to the benefit of the public at large and for the children – maybe for at least one show or activity a year? Some reports here [***see Llandudno on page 13 from Issue #120 - Ed***] suggest that we are at least reaching out to a very few people. Is that enough? What more could we and should we do? We are open to suggestions for the good of the Guild and all its members.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~Jimmy (Secretary/Treasurer IGKT-PAB)
[***Amended and edited by your Editor, as President of IGKTPAB***]

Something You Do Not Need To Know

sent by Richard Hopkins

Something you do not need to know:

Have you ever wondered why laid ropes all look very much alike? We would say that it is because they are made in the same way, but is this sufficient? Ropes from long ago are easily recognisable whatever the material from which they are made [***see center page spread - Ed***]. Our apparent lack of curiosity probably stems from the fact that, over the millennia, we were taught how to make rope and, as long as we ended up with workable cord, did not need to know more.

Mathematicians, however, were not so easily satisfied and a couple of them, Jakob Bohr and Kasper Olsen from the Technical university of Denmark produced a paper in 2010 on the ancient art of laying rope [***see Abstract, p 45, Issue 112 of KM - Ed***]. In this they studied the geometrical properties of helical structures and applied it to ropemaking to show that we are, in fact, doing it right. Helices have a maximum number of rotations that can be applied to them and the paper shows that the twist in a rope is a geometrical feature and not a material one.

In simpler English this means that ropes cannot have more than a certain number of turns per unit length. If there are fewer turns than the maximum, then the rope will have a tendency to twist under tension, regardless of the material from which the rope is made. They call the maximum number of turns the zero-twist configuration. We know that when ropes are made correctly the strands are kept under tension so that on completion, and removal of the load, the strands "relax" into the zero-twist configuration, giving a rope that will not spin under load.

While this has been known for thousands of years we now have the mathematical answer.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

The paper follows on to say that at zero-twist the pitch angle of the ropes, or the angle the groove between strands makes with a line at right angles to the rope, is the same for ropes with the same number of strands. Thus for two-strand rope it is 39.4°, for three strand rope it is 42.8° while for four strand rope the angle is 43.8°. This explains why laid ropes of different materials look very similar. With these ideal angles the rope will not rotate under load but will be quite stiff.

In order to get a more useful and flexible rope the strands are laid in not quite the best pitch angle so that, under tension, the rope will adjust itself to the zero-twist configuration. This is achieved by use of the "top" which leads the strands from a radius that is purposely too large. They also show that a zero-twist three-strand rope will always be 68% of the length of its original strands, which explains why ropewalks in various parts of the world are roughly the same length when used to produce rope and cord for the same purposes (other commercial factors aside).

The point is also made that, until the introduction of wire rope, there was no need to know much about the zero-twist, but a non-zero-twist wire rope on a crane, for example, would unwind. Wire ropes for cranes, therefore, have to be constructed as counter- rotated multi-layered steel wires that are rotationally restricted. Although the mathematics of the article is beyond me I am delighted by the conclusion of the authors that, as long as you follow the rope making instructions which have been passed down through the ages, there is no need to know the maths.

The ancient art of laying rope.
Jakob Bohr and Kasper Olsen
Department of Physics
Technical University of Denmark
arXiv:1004.0814v3[physics.pop-ph]-8Aug2010

CONSTRICTOR WHIPPING

by Theo Slijkerman

The constrictor knot and a common whipping are a very practical combination. All strands and yarns are first bound together with the constrictor knot. After that it's easy, with the ends of the constrictor knot, to make the whipping. Just follow the diagrams below.

Theo Slijkerman
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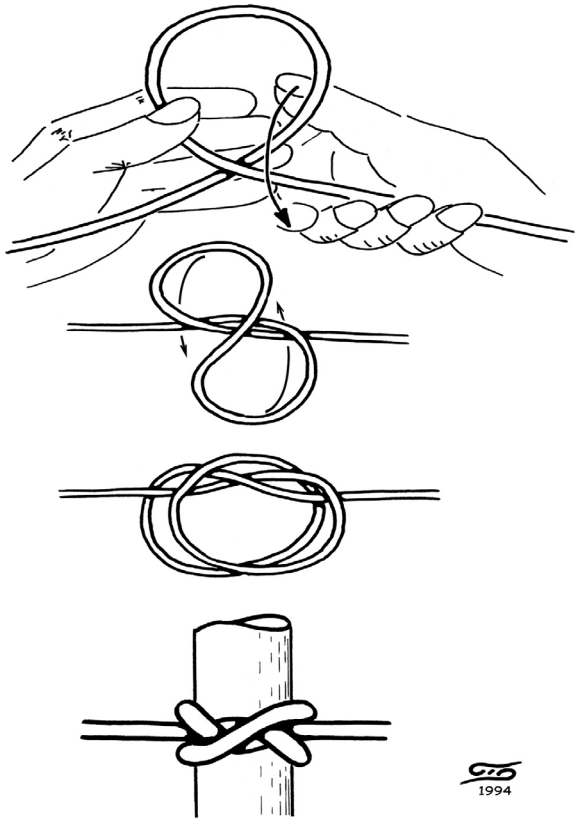
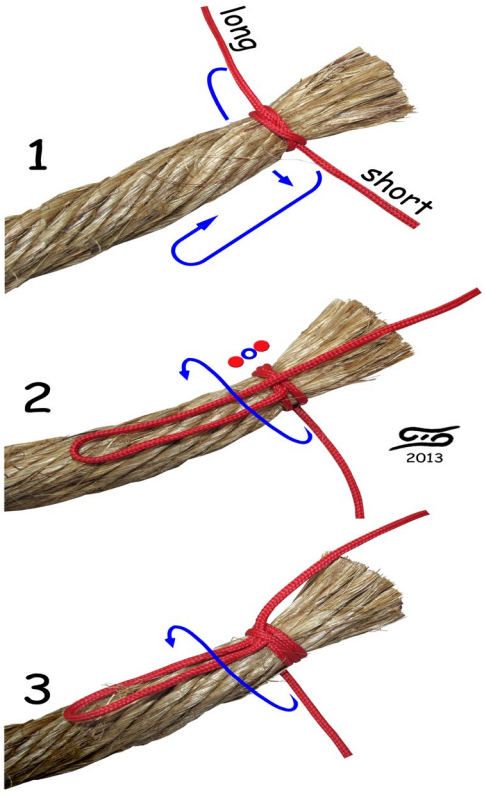
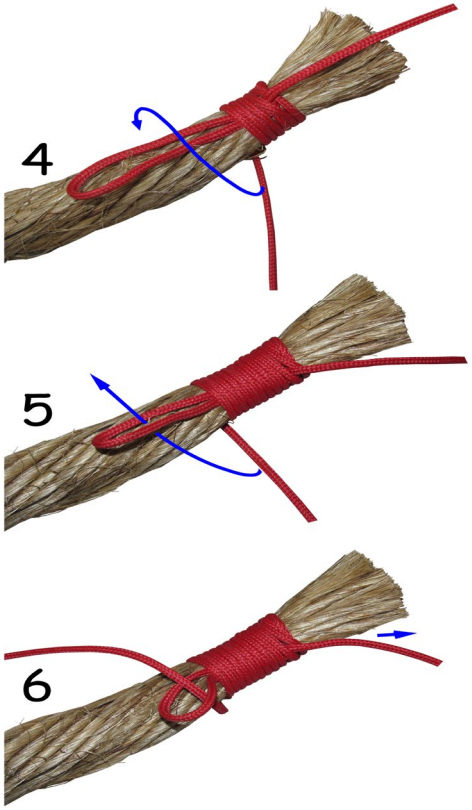


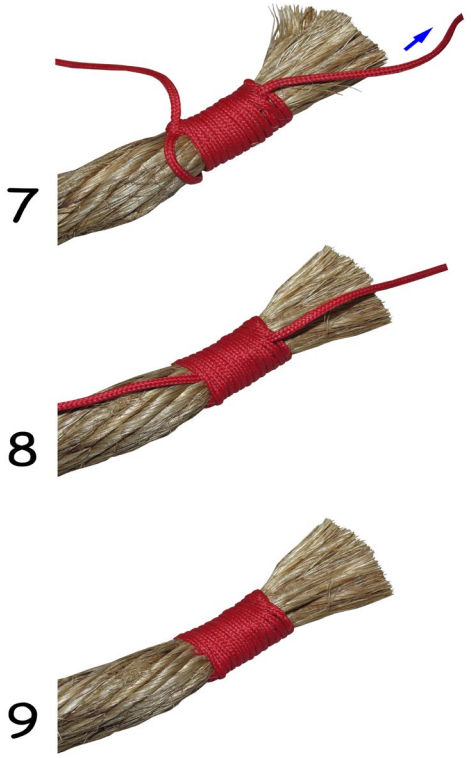
Here is an easy way to make a Constrictor Hitch - first a loop, then fold it down and to the left while you hold the top part, then fold the top part behind and slip the doubled loop over the end of your bundle or strand and pull tight



Arrange the CH over the end of the strand like this, make a bight with the short end as shown in Photograph Stage 1 & 2, then start to wind the long end, with the lay of the strand, to capture the short end and bight (see left) as seen in Stage 2 & 3. Be sure to leave a long enough tail (that you can grip) sticking out of the end of the first turns as shown in Stage 3.



Keep wrapping the strand with the long end of the CH and, when you have made enough turns [***usually about 12 or so - Ed***] then tuck the end of the long section up through the bight you first formed as shown (on right) in Photograph 6.



Pull on the tail you left on the bight from stage 2 to firmly grip the wrapping end, making sure to tighten the wrap before pulling the bight up under the turns (stage 8) and then trim the ends as in Stage 9. Your Constrictor Whipping is complete!

Welcome and Bienvenue!

KNOT TYERS AROUND THE WORLD UNITE

in Hamilton, Ontario Canada for the 2014 I.G.K.T. Semi- Annual Meeting to be held from Friday, October 3-5, 2014

MEETING Agenda and Activities

Thursday, October 2 - Day trip to Niagara Falls

Friday, October 3 - 10:00 am until 3:00 pm Set up knotting displays at Dundurn Coach House

12:00 noon Workshops

7:00 pm Delegates "Welcome Reception" at Visitors Inn Conference room

8:00 pm Presentation by Mr. Gill Bibby from the Hamilton Scourge Project. These unique shipwrecks are the only complete 1812 warships in the world and are sitting in about 100 meters of water in Lake Ontario. City of Hamilton Cultural Services is guiding the project while working with other levels of government and a private proponent (the Hamilton/ Scourge Committee).

Long before the sinking of the Titanic, two American schooners, the Hamilton and the Scourge, capsized in Lake Ontario in 1813. Using first-hand accounts and sonar technology, these wrecks have been found and investigated. Click on [copy and paste] the following link below to visit the wrecks, learn about underwater archaeology, and step back in time to the War of 1812. www.hamilton-scourge.hamilton.ca/

Saturday, October 4 - 10:00 am until 3:00 pm Public Open House of member's knotting works at Dundurn Coach House

2:00 pm Skype meeting with I.G.K.T. (tentative time)

7:00 pm Members Dinner at the Dundas Air Force Club. Immediately following dinner, we will be drawing for the donated prize table (donations are gratefully accepted). This facility will be available after dinner until midnight for members to mix, mingle. The Southern Ontario Knot Tyers will also have a little surprise entertainment for our guests.

Sunday, October 5 - 10:00 am until 12:00 noon Public Open House of members knotting works at Dundurn Coach House

The Southern Ontario Knot Tyers [SOKT] wish to thank all our I.G.K.T. members, in advance, for making this International event a success. The S.O.K.T. is honoured to be the host to the best Knot Tyers in the world. We also wish to extend a very special thanks to the International Guild of Knot Tyers for entrusting us with this venerable event. Finally, we recognize the Corporation of the City of Hamilton for their ongoing support, help and warm welcome towards our guests.

If you have any questions, please Email us at: southern.ontario.knotyers@gmail.com

or write to us c/o: John Staley
109 Clifton Downs Road,
Hamilton, Ontario,
Canada, L9C 2P5

Telephone # 1- 905- 389-2508

For Registration details, visit our website at: www.knotcanada.com/

ATTENTION KNOT TYERS

Share your knowledge - Volunteer to run a workshop!
Sign up on Conference registration form

IGKT Thank you

from Karl Bareuther

Dear Colin,

In the name of the " Organisation Team" (Knut, Gerd and myself [Karl Bareuther]) I would like to say thank you for offering us the chance to hold the "IGKT Half Yearly October Meeting 2013" at the "Flensburger Schiffahrtsmuseum". We did it and it turned out to be a wonderful event for visitors and Knot Tyers as well. Members from 10 Nations took part in our meeting and we say thank you to everyone who has made the "long trail" to Flensburg. Never before could we show this number of international flags!
Another great Thank You goes to the Director of the Flensburger Schiffahrtsmuseum, Dr. Thomas Overdick and his staff . Those people have made our meeting possible and successfull....

Looking forward to seeing you at another meeting somewhere,

Karl

IGKT President's Jottings

December 2013

The half-yearly meeting in Flensburg was a real success - see the very cheery report elsewhere in this issue. Our grateful thanks go to members Knut Buttgereit, Karl Bareuther and Gerd Heinrich and Dr Thomas Overdick, the Director of the Flensburg Schiffahrtsmuseum (Maritime Arts Museum) for the excellent organization and hospitality.

At the end of considerable trans-Atlantic discussion, the Trustees are delighted that the important Bushby manuscript at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, USA is now being digitized. We have just made our long-promised payment to the Friends of the Mariners' Museum Library to assist in this process.

The Museum Librarian has asked for the Guild's assistance in making a faithful transcript of the text and you will see on another page a request for volunteers. One of our Founder Members, Des Pawson, has agreed to coordinate this important process. Do, please, let him know if you can help. Your Guild Needs You!

The newly-constituted Executive Committee of the Guild has now met successfully via Skype on two occasions. The Committee requests help from members in organising people to act as deputies or assistants to the Guild members who do jobs on which we all depend – e.g. Knotting Matters Editor, Membership Secretary, Supplies Secretary, Guild Librarian etc. Again, please help if you can - Your Guild Needs You! Please get in touch with the Executive Committee Secretary, Sheila Pearson on execsec@igkt.net.

Very best wishes to you all for a splendid 2014.

Tubular Knots

by Joe Bennett

Lindsey,

Here are some knots, in tubular form, that are derived from ABOK chapter 39.

(1)
A 2-strand knot with the same structure as ABOK#3045.

(2)
A 3-strand knot with the same structure as ABOK#3047.

(3)
A 4-strand knot with the same structure as ABOK#3073.

(4)
A 2-strand knot with the same structure as ABOK#3075.

Also, here are two small knots of my own (opposite, lower). Both are the same knot, one in two colours and the other in three colours.

#3045

#3047

#3073

#3075

A sample of line taken from the 43.6 m long and 9.5 m wide Khufu (King Cheops) ship in the Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt; photograph was taken July 2007 by John Bodsworth in Giza Solar Boat Museum; the line is believed to be 4500 years old.

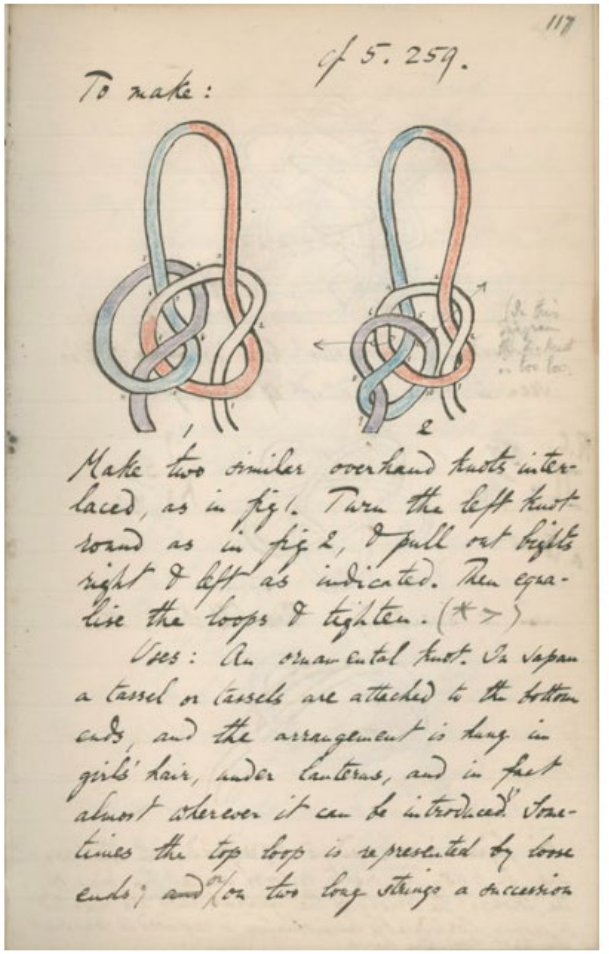
The IGKT Bushby Manuscript Document

by Des Pawson MBE

As you will have seen in previous issues of Knotting Matters, we have been working with the library of the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virgina, USA to digitise, and make publicly available, a unique manuscript in their possession.

Notes on Knots by Henry North Grant Bushby is a set of eight manuscript books of about 260 pages each. They were written between 1902 and 1926 with the last volume (8) being an index. The whole manuscript pre-dates Clifford Ashley's work and is a very important document in our knotting world.

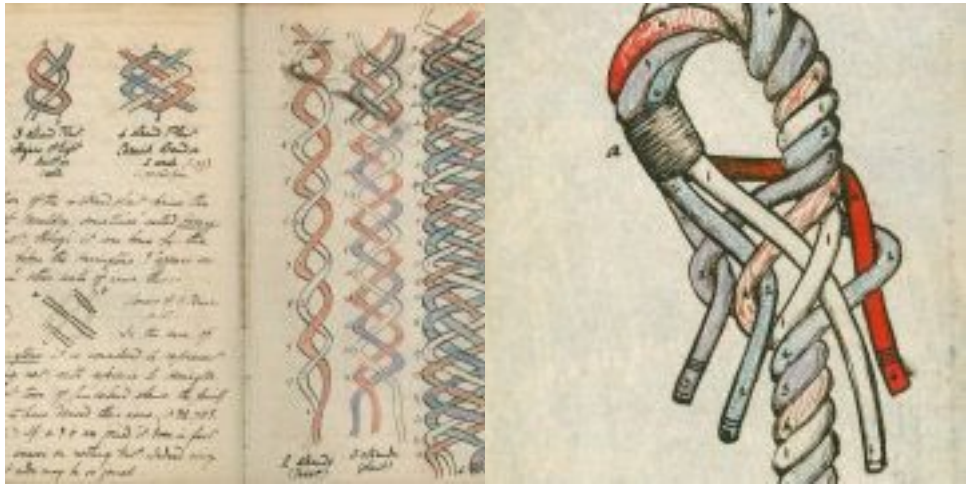
Please see
http://www.marinersmuseum.org/library/notes-knots-henry-bushby-manuscript for an introduction and some images from the manuscript. For example [see opposite]:-


117
To make:
of 5. 259.
1
2
Make two similar overhand knots interlaced, as in fig 1. Turn the left knot round as in fig 2, & pull out bights right & left as indicated. Then equalise the loops & tighten. (*>)
Uses: An ornamental knot. In Japan a tassel or tassels are attached to the bottom ends, and the arrangement is hung in girls' hair, under lanterns, and in fact almost wherever it can be introduced. Sometimes the top loop is represented by loose ends; and for two long strings a succession

Tassel knot
Image 2 of 2

The library is at present carrying out the scanning of the manuscript pages. In order to make the information usefully available, these pages need to be transcribed into printed text which the Museum will also make publicly available. The images will be much clearer than the screen-shot here.

The Museum has suggested, and the Guild has agreed, that our members are those best placed to carry out this task. I am happy to organize this process, with the help of our president, Colin Byfleet.



[*More pages from the Bushby manuscript as seen on the Mariners Museum web-site - note that some pages have drawings and some have script and drawings and some have all script. Many of the drawings are colored to ensure clarity - a helpful touch! - Ed*]

Nico Bastione, of Palermo, Island of Sicily, Italy, photographer of Il Sig. Giacomo, cordaio (ropemaker). Copyright 2009 – 2013 (page opposite)

All this leads me to the point of this article. The project needs volunteers to help as transcribers on the Bushby Manuscript Project. If you feel that you might be willing to help produce a searchable text version of this manuscript, please let me know:-

Des Pawson, 501 Wherstead Road, Ipswich, IP2 8LL, UK
des@despawson.com +44(0)1473 690 090

By registering an interest now, you are not committing yourself for the future, but we do need to assemble a team in order to start the ball rolling. The eight volumes consist of over two thousand pages. From the illustration of a typical page given here, you can see that there are not many words per page. If we have twenty volunteers taking on 100 pages each, we might complete the work in six months, certainly a year. I do hope that a significant number of you will be willing to consider helping. It will be an interesting job and we will all have the satisfaction of contributing to making available one of the largest and most comprehensive manuscripts on knots and knotting.

KM 119 - Fenders Still Made To Order?

by Dave Walker

In response to the article in K.M. 119 page 46, I can assure Des if he needs any unusual fenders or commercial rope work, then the team based at my workshop can sort out most requests. I have been manufacturing fenders for the marine industry since 1996. [***Ed - actually it was a question posed by me in considering the size and technical details of the fenders made previously by R. Hood Haggie - Des supplied the photograph***]

Most of my business is supplying fenders for the craft on the Inland waterways. I also make larger fenders for bigger vessels. I'm proud to have been asked to make the fenders for the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. The first large fender that I was asked to make, was for a company based in Wicklow, Republic of Ireland. It was horseshoe shaped, the dimensions were 30 inches deep at the bow, 4.5 feet high and the legs were 7ft long. It weighed approx. 1 tonne when finished. I pointed out that the size may affect the buoyancy of the vessel, the customer assured me that "it's a big boat". It took me about 8 weeks to make while I made others' fenders.

I eventually finished it and arranged for the customer to send a vehicle over from Ireland to pick it up. The driver duly arrived by himself in a transit. He got out of the van, looked at the fender, kicked it, swore at it, then phoned his boss in Wicklow and told him that he would not be able to get it in the van. His boss told him to drive back home. The poor driver drove 360 miles and 2 ferry crossings on a wasted journey. The customer then arranged to have a large lorry to come over with a crane on it to take it to the Marina. The scale on the crane confirmed the weight. Later on the customer phoned me to say that they had dropped the fender into the dock when they were attempting to attach it to the boat. Luckily, the fender floated and they moored it to the dock ladder until a crane became available.

They eventually fixed the fender to the vessel, but unfortunately the bow of the boat dropped by 14 inches and because the vessel took on too much water when it went to sea they decided to take it off. Don't worry, they did pay, and yes it was a lot of money.

This event did not stop me making further large fenders; I like a challenge. The next large job was for a man who built oil rigs and his passion was to build triple expansion steam engines. A friend of his suggested that he should wrap a boat around his latest effort. He asked me to make some fenders, fore and aft plus sides. After I delivered them he asked me to make various rope mats, a bell rope, and cover the top hand rail with cockscombing. He never asked me how much it would cost, he just told me to help myself to the money in a jar that was in the workshop. At any one time there must have been a couple of thousand pounds in the jar!

I also host Fender workshops around the country. For a number of years I have been invited to host Fender Making Workshops at the Inland Waterways Festival. I have also visited Boat Clubs around the country and hosted weekend workshops for the club members. I've also hosted classes at my workshop for 2/3 people who want specialised instruction. Recently I have been invited to support The Master Ropemakers at Chatham Historic Dockyard; I've been asked to provide specialist advice in the production of the many rope products the Master Ropemakers produce. It's been fantastic to have hands-on experience in such an historic venue.

To meet the demand, I've been fortunate to be able to call on the support of local knotters, Ian Rogers, Paul Wright, Chris Bailey, Barry Mault, Andrew Stoker and Phil Cook. Each seems to have a specialist skill that is in demand with the Ropemakers. Last year I was invited to host a 2 day workshop for their staff; what an experience! My hobby is rope making so the flow of information both ways was incredible. I was like a pig in a strawberry field. Thanks to my contacts with the management of the Master Ropemakers I was invited to submit some ideas to decorate a "jump" for the Cross Country Event at Woolwich Park for the 2012 London Olympics [***see photo next page***].

What I Did

by JP Honeywell

This involved some meetings at Chatham Dockyard and with the course designer. The meetings took longer than it took to make the rope products. I was involved in other products for the event but unfortunately, my contract required confidentiality and prevented me from having my name on the products. I have trained a small team of home workers. The nature of rope work enables them to earn some money in their own time and at their own pace.

Through my hobby becoming a job I have had some interesting experiences, visited special places around the country and met many "characters".

Dave with a large bow fender (above, left), a stern fender on a canal vessel (above, right) and (below) the show-jumping arrangement made by Dave Walker.

A Christmas Ornament for your enjoyment.

Above - John Richings of Wales recently re-posted this wonderful egg-sample of knotting on Facebook - great work John! Below, Michel Since of France posted this lovely example of 3 views of globe knots as Pineapple pattern knots - thank you Michel!

From the Editor's Blotter

I am always surprised about and by the letters I receive as your Editor - you may note the changing flavor of this magazine as a reflection of those receipts. In my last note penned here I spoke of introspection and change as we move through the solstice, a natural occurrence each year that passes. With this issue there is much about the colors of winter and of the hoped-for Spring in the Northern hemisphere, while in the Southern hemisphere we are seeing the daylight reducing to a glowing glimmer and an approaching Autumnal season. Does color affect your life in knotting? I have taken to trolling the pages of that unique social network on the Internet - Facebook - to sense out what pleases my family, friends, acquaintances and contacts - previous examples are opposite (one previously published by KM in Issue #113 exactly two years ago!).

We are also seeing a cry go out to our members in this issue for help in so many places - assistance is needed! Specifically, your help is needed wherever there is a knotting display, event or demonstration going on. Are you able to spend a single hour of your good time assisting others of your fellow knot-tyers at an event or activity of your choosing? You could just sit and untangle cord or you could use the time on a project you are making, knotting-related hopefully, or you could answer one or two questions from the public or assist others in doing so. Your help would be so very much appreciated! Perhaps the public eye is not your forte? Maybe you would be more comfortable behind the scenes? Are you able to help an Executive Committee member with a project or two? Could you write a short article (or a long one) about a recent project and the way in which you overcame or enjoyed a particular part of that project? Maybe you have a pet that enjoys becoming tangled in twine? Perhaps you have small children around who would love to help their parent or grandparent to enjoy their hobby - photographs of young people enjoying knot-tying are always welcome! Do you help others and are you able to let us know how and where - perhaps to inspire your fellows? How about helping transcribe Bushby Manuscripts (pp 26 - 29)?

Your comments and help, as always, are welcomed.

Follow-Up Report of Flensburg Meeting

by Europa Chang-Dawson

This meeting was held in the Schiffahrtsmuseum in Flensburg, the northernmost city of Germany. Members from all over Europe attended, as well as Bob Dollar from New England & a guest from Israel.

The museum is on three levels, with a courtyard and outbuildings, and had been cleared for our meeting, with a marquee set up for extra display space. The ground level was a reception area, with the six-knot challenge and other activities set up. We had display tables on the middle level, and at the top there were items displayed under glass. These included objects from Des Pawson's museum. Sharing this gallery was the museum's Featured Artist, Inga Momsen.

Outside, a Danish couple, Steen & Hanne, had their travelling ropewalk [***opposite, right***], and in the marquee the hardier members had more tables set up with displays. It was a delight to walk round and see how varied the tables were. Jorgen Christiansen from Denmark brought along a selection of his superb macramé pieces, and he wore a hat made in the same technique. Fritz & Efina from the Netherlands not only made a colourful display of friendship bracelets, but also entertained us with their accordion. Willeke van der Ham displayed her miniature baskets and showed people how to braid rope by swinging weights (bottles filled with water in this instance).

At the official start of the meeting, the Burgomeister (probably the tallest mayor in Germany) gave a speech of welcome, as did the director of the museum & Knut, 'our man on the ground'. The museum gave us a warm welcome, and with true German hospitality provided hot & cold drinks and cakes all day and two choices of hearty soup at lunchtime on both Saturday & Sunday. This was all cooked on the premises and piping hot, and tasted delicious! 58 people sat down to the Knot-Tyers' Supper _again a great meal _ in one of the local restaurants.

The activities included the Six Knot Challenge, adjudicated by Ian & Paul of the North West Branch of UK, and was won by Ken Yalden (25 seconds, including a dropped rope). The prize was a pair of chest beckets made & donated by Karl Bareuther. Gerd Heinrich called for a team of volunteers to make "the biggest 3Lx5B Turk's Head in Germany" (below, left) and this was eventually completed and the mat now sits in the museum. It was certainly the heaviest! In addition, there were informal workshops continuing throughout the two days.

The last of the raffle prizes was a hammock which had been begun at the start of the draw. What speed! Another was a monkey's fist knot in a bottle, tied by Jouni from Finland.

A big thank you to Knut Buttgereit, Gerd Heinrich & Karl Bareuther for all their hard work in organising such a splendid meeting.

Colin Byfleet in the foreground and the burgomeister (mayor) in the background

A seafarer's Christmas poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, first published in the Scots Observer in 1888

"The sheets were frozen hard, and they cut the naked hand;
The decks were like a slide, where a seaman scarce could stand;
The wind was a nor'wester, blowing squally off the sea;
And cliffs and spouting breakers were the only things a-lee.

They heard the surf a-roaring before the break of day;
But 'twas only with the peep of light we saw how ill we lay.
We tumbled every hand on deck instanter, with a shout,
And we gave her the maintops'l, and stood by to go about.

All day we tacked and tacked between the South Head and the North;
All day we hauled the frozen sheets, and got no further forth;
All day as cold as charity, in bitter pain and dread,
For very life and nature we tacked from head to head.

We gave the South a wider berth, for there the tide-race roared;
But every tack we made we brought the North Head close aboard:
So's we saw the cliffs and houses, and the breakers running high,
And the coastguard in his garden, with his glass against his eye.

The frost was on the village roofs as white as ocean foam;
The good red fires were burning bright in every 'longshore home;
The windows sparkled clear, and the chimneys volleyed out;
And I vow we sniffed the victuals as the vessel went about.

The bells upon the church were rung with a mighty jovial cheer;
For it's just that I should tell you how (of all days in the year)
This day of our adversity was blessed Christmas morn,
And the house above the coastguard's was the house where I was born.

O well I saw the pleasant room, the pleasant faces there,
My mother's silver spectacles, my father's silver hair;
And well I saw the firelight, like a flight of homely elves,
Go dancing round the china-plates that stand upon the shelves.

And well I knew the talk they had, the talk that was of me,
Of the shadow on the household and the son that went to sea;
And O the wicked fool I seemed, in every kind of way,
To be here and hauling frozen ropes on blessed Christmas Day.

They lit the high sea-light, and the dark began to fall.
"All hands to loose topgallant sails," I heard the captain call.
"By the Lord, she'll never stand it," our first mate, Jackson, cried. . . .
"It's the one way or the other, Mr. Jackson," he replied.

She staggered to her bearings, but the sails were new and good,
And the ship smelt up to windward just as though she understood.
As the winter's day was ending, in the entry of the night,
We cleared the weary headland, and passed below the light.

And they heaved a mighty breath, every soul on board but me,
As they saw her nose again pointing handsome out to sea;
But all that I could think of, in the darkness and the cold,
Was just that I was leaving home and my folks were growing old."

Photo taken aboard 'Garthsnaid', circa 1920.

Help Needed!

by Ian Schofield and Willeke van der Hamm

IGKT Meetings

The Guild holds two meetings a year, which are open to all our members. As only between 50 and 100 people typically attend a meeting, and we have 1200 members, many of you have never been to one of our events.

So what happens at a meeting? It is a gathering of Knot Tyers and their families. At the gathering members display their work, teach each other how to tie particular knots and other related things, discuss knot tying, attend lectures and participate in workshops. If the meeting is open to the general public then we talk to the visitors, teach them to how to tie knots and try to encourage them to get involved in our passion. We have one formal meeting a year, the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Traditionally this includes a Knot Tyers' Supper and a raffle.

So, when do meetings occur and how long do they last? Usually the AGM is the second weekend in May and the Half-Yearly Meeting the first weekend of October. They are usually held over a weekend, starting with gathering and setting up on the Friday afternoon/evening, displays/teaching/lectures/workshop/visits on the Saturday followed by the Raffle and the Knot Tyers Supper. On Sunday there are displays/teaching/lectures/workshop/visits and then farewell until next time. A weekend is not the only duration; there have been single day meetings and twice there have been meetings lasting seven days.

Where do meetings happen? We have held meetings in Museums, in hotels, in Sea Cadet Headquarters, on Scout Campsites and on ships. I have been to meetings in England, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Sweden, Germany and USA in the last ten years.

Who organises meetings? Individual members, Guild Branches and Guild Officers. It takes several people, each doing a little, to help and organise.

Future Meetings; we have venues for meetings in 2014. The AGM will be in the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, England and the Half-Yearly Meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The Executive Committee is looking to create a programme of meetings for 2015 and beyond; we need suggestions from members of suitable venues, offers to organise meetings from branches and offers to help from individual members.

Why go to meetings? I have found the many IGKT gatherings I have attended to be great fun, interesting and friendly. I have seen some amazing knot work, learnt many knots and made many new friends. Every meeting is different, taking its flavour from the venue and the organisers.

Can you help? The Guild needs your help to organise future meetings. Please send suggestions for venues or offers to organise a meeting to :-

Colin Byfleet (secretary@igkt.net).

Do not delay, act today!

I very much look forward to meeting you at our next meeting.
Ian Schofield, IGKT Treasurer and Executive Committee Member

Three concentric rings made of eight-strand sennit in a single cord, each made as a sennit grommet by Michel Since - brilliant!

An Intriguing Sennit Piece in the shape of our IGKT logo!

This was conceived and made by JP Honeywell - great job!

Future Meetings

2014 AGM

The next Annual General Meeting of the IGKT will be in The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, England (website http://www.thedockyard.co.uk/) between Friday 9th May and Sunday 11th May 2014. The AGM and displays will be in the Dockyard Church. The Rope Makers are giving Guild members a demonstration of the Rope Walk at 1400 on Friday 9th May. The AGM will be at 1000 on Saturday 10th May. The Knot Tyers Supper will be in the Museum Restaurant, Wheelwrights, on Saturday Evening. The weekend will end at 1300 on the Sunday.

We hoped to provide details with this edition of Knotting Matters but this is dependent on finalising arrangements with the dockyard. The details will be posted on the Guild Website as soon as they are available.

Provisional Information for IGKT conference at Hamilton, Canada in Autumn 2014:
Date: Friday, 03 October 2014 - Sunday, 05 October 2014
Venue: Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, Canada
The above information is strictly provisional at present, and the date has yet to be confirmed.

The Southern Ontario Knot Tyers are proud to announce that Hamilton, Ontario has been selected to host a conference of the International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT) in the fall of 2014. In the 30 year history of the Guild, this will be the first time that such an event has been held in Canada. In October, 2014, Hamilton will be the focal point and gathering place for some of the best knot tyers in the world. Additionally, the Southern Ontario Knot Tyers will be providing a 2 1/2 day exhibition, showcasing the skills of these talented artisans.

For ongoing information and updates about our get-together, please book mark the following website: www.Knotcanada2014.webs.com/

Branch Reports

What Knots?

At this Autumn's meeting of the East Anglian Branch of the IGKT, I introduced two knots: one, (knot 'a') was a common configuration adapted to a particular need of mine. The other, (knot 'b'), I came across whilst toying with a piece of rope and [***found that it***] forms a good stop knot.

The first [***Chinese Arrow Pull***] may be of some use to other toxophilites as I use it to pull bolts out from targets which are put there by a powerful crossbow and thereby seriously embedded! The second, as yet, I cannot find it in any book, including ABOK.

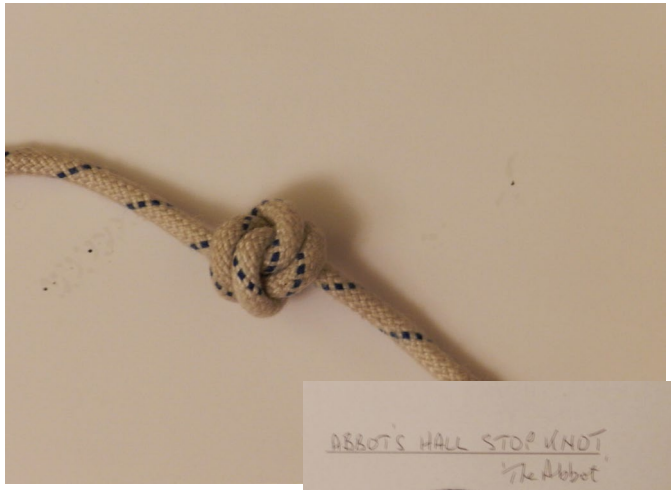
Might it be that the second knot [***illustrated at right in drawing of construction and photograph of actual faired knot***] is a new knot? I offer it as a knotting Aunt Sally to be knocked down; I'm sure others more learned than I will be able to correct this wild guess and point me in the direction of appropriate knowledge! I look forward to hearing from you.

Tony Lee [Knots 'a' and 'b' are shown opposite]

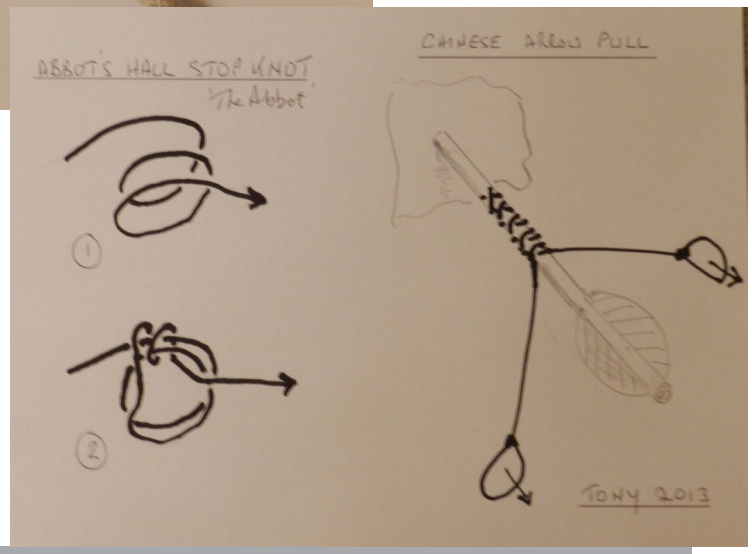
WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH

We have a 10' by 10' covered walk-in market stall, for IGKT displays, in excellent condition, which we will no longer be using. If there is another Branch who could make use of this, please will you contact David Pearson, before the 2014 AGM , at
wayzegoose_uk@yahoo.co.uk
nb. that is an underscore after wayzegoose and before uk

Sheila Pearson



Knot 'a' below at right labeled Chinese Arrow Pull [***looks like a selvagee wrap as in ABOK #3152 or similar - Ed***]



Knot 'b' above and at left side of illustration on right

Comments and Errata

Correction

KM #120 (September 2013), on page 19, the bracketed note that completes the heading in column 3 of Table 2 should read '(resultant divisible by both 2 and 3)'.

Ancient Practice Continues Into The Present

Photograph from the Past

A sampler of one type of cottage industry of rope-making practiced not too long ago. Note that three-strand rope is being made and that the whole family is joining in the activity! Because the woman in the photograph appears to be winding the rope crank counterclockwise, it may be assumed that the strand made is left-laid for a right-laid rope.

Alaskan Branch
Every Thu. evening 6:00 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Ave., Anchorage, AK
Contact Charles Rigden
Tel: (1) 928/231-4775

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch
Contact Jean-Pierre Durand
06 64 00 66 91
durand0547@orange.fr
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Andree Treffenfeld
Hermann-Lons Str 3C, D-24558
Henstedt-Ulzburg, Germany
Telephone: +49 (0) 172 4156789
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Frits Ottens
Tel: +31(0)587850011
Fruitstraat 58, 8933 GR Leeuwarden, Netherlands
E-mail: frits.efina@telfort.nl

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock
See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms
See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
At the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (upstairs)
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Howard Denyer
Tel: +44(0) 1483 536 401
www.surreyknots.org.uk

Sweden
Contact: Christoffer Åström
Tel: +46 736 381 731
E-mail: christoffer@knopar.se

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146
May be subject to change - call first

West Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back Cover - A set of butty fenders made by Dave Walker - his article is on pp 30 - 32.

583.